

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
WOOD RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2003
FAIRFIELD, IDAHO**

Chairman Daryle James called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Joe Schwarzback, Bill Davis, Chuck Pentzer, Lynn Harmon, Carol Blackburn, Bob Bolte, Bob Simpson, Bryan Ravenscroft, Roger Parker, Vernon Ravenscroft, Lynden Osborne, DEQ representative Jennifer Claire and Secretary Dana Sturgeon.

Minutes for May 27, 2003 were reviewed. Bob Simpson made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Bob Bolte seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

Jo Lowe e-mailed a request for consideration of utilizing a calendar, rather than a flyer, to educate the public on the watershed. She suggested a calendar might be a more friendly way of broadcasting water quality information than a brochure or handbook. Each month could illustrate a specific issue with a photograph of a corresponding stream segment in the Big Wood drainage. The text could briefly describe beneficial uses and how to sustain or rehabilitate those uses through defined best management practices. The calendar estimates range from \$ 3,800 to \$ 4,500 for 1,000.

Roger suggested using a web site rather than a calendar due to the cost involved in printing calendars. He felt all of the positive ideas Jo had for the calendar could be accomplished on a web site without the cost printing calendars would generate. Vern still felt a flyer would better serve the public.

Daryle asked for a vote of those in favor of spending money on calendars. The nays were unanimous. Daryle asked Roger to contact Jo and work with her in developing a web site, using the ideas from the calendar concept. He agreed to work with Jo on the project.

Daryle reported that requests went out to the counties asking them to budget for next year. This was done in June because the counties are in the process of developing their budgets for 2004 and our June meeting was cancelled. Vern reported he just received \$ 2,400 from Blaine County for next year. Dana will contact the Blaine County Clerk and see if they want us to apply this amount to next year or return the money.

Bob Simpson passed out copies of the court case concerning decreed water rights on the Malad or Big Wood River and its Tributaries, Blaine and Lincoln Counties, Idaho. The case is a 1909 case with S.C. Frost, et al., Plaintiffs vs. Alturas Water Company, et al., Defendants. This case lists certain creeks as dry streams.

The Board felt that an opinion from the Attorney General's office on the validity of the streams that were delisted in the Frost Decree. Jennifer was requested to ask DEQ to request an opinion on the validity of the streams that were delisted in the Frost Decree.

Jennifer reported that the 303d list is out for public comment.

The Chairman received a letter, dated June 24, 2003, from the Camas Soil Conservation District expressing their opposition of delisting Camas Creek Watershed streams on the basis of low or no water. The letter stated that erosion, sediment transport and sediment deposition in Magic Reservoir are problems that are

present and active during high flow periods and the majority of sediment and debris transportation is accomplished during this interval. Regardless of the difficulty in the application of standards on area streams, due to low or no water and its implications for TMDL development, erosion and sediment contribution from upstream regions must be alleviated to properly address the TMDL process.

Bill Davis explained that the District is opposed to delisting streams because they have other projects and they are concerned if the streams are disqualified, the State will think everything is fine with that stream and they would lose funding for future projects.

Jennifer will take a copy of the letter to DEQ for their review.

Roger asked if the WAG has a logo and a mission statement. Daryle said that a logo was developed at one time and Jo may have something on that. Bryan felt they might both be on the front cover of the report on the Big Wood River. Others felt that was correct. Roger will check with Jo.

Chuck reported on a PFC training, which was held on the Rock Creek Drainage about 2 weeks ago. PFC stands for Public Functioning Condition rating protocol. There were approximately 25 people in attendance at the 2 days of training. Classroom training took place the first day and the 2nd day was spent on Rock Creek evaluating and looking at two different stretches of the stream.

The next meeting will be in Carey at 7:30 P.M. on August 26, 2003. The meeting for September was set for the 23rd at 7:30 P.M. in Fairfield.

Daryle James
Chairman